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## NATIONAL

### **1 EPA proposes major rule to reduce certain greenhouse gases, Hill, 5/3/21**

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/overnights/551432-epa-to-propose-rule-slashing-hydrofluorocarbons-use?rl=1>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking a major step Monday to battle climate change with the formal proposal of a rule phasing down the use of planet-warming gases called hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are used as refrigerants, the agency announced Monday. The reduction will decrease HFC production and use in the U.S. by 85 percent over the next 15 years. The rule is being issued under a law passed last year by Congress.

### **2 EPA moves to phase out HFCs, Houston Chron, 5/3/21**

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/EPA-moves-to-phase-out-HFCs-16147114.php>

The United States will move rapidly to phase out the use of climate-warming hydrofluorocarbons in air conditioners and other products, the Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday. The Biden administration is aiming reduce HFC production 85 percent over the next 15 years and ban outright HFCs that have readily available alternatives, goals set forth in bipartisan legislation passed by Congress last year.

### **3 19 states make 'long-shot bid' to curb EPA climate authority, EE News, 4/30/21**

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2021/04/30/stories/1063731403>

The Supreme Court is unlikely to grant a petition from red states asking the justices to review EPA's authority to regulate carbon emissions, environmental lawyers say. But the petition — filed yesterday by 19 Republican-led states — offers a preview of the legal challenges awaiting President Biden's EPA once it proposes a new greenhouse gas rule for power plants.

### **4 One of the Country's 10 Largest Coal Plants Just Got a Retirement Date. What About the Rest?, Inside Climate, 4/3/21**

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/03052021/large-coal-plants-retirement-dates/>

To survive among the shrinking fleet of U.S. coal-fired power plants, it helps to be extremely big. On April 22, American Electric Power announced that it would close the Rockport Plant in southwest Indiana by 2028, making the plant the only one of the 10 largest in the country that is scheduled to completely shut down before 2030.

## TEXAS

### **5 Texas Governmental Agency Launches 'Environmental Justice' Initiative, Texan, 4/30/21**

<https://thetexan.news/texas-governmental-agency-launches-environmental-justice-initiative/>

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) announced Thursday the creation of an "environmental justice" (EJ) quasi-task force. It is aimed at "protect[ing] people of color and low-income residents who often live in communities near sources of pollution" by "better understanding the environmental justice concerns of Texans."

## LOUISIANA

### **6 5 La. refineries, 3 near New Orleans, exceed benzene threshold, WWL, 4/30/2021**

<https://www.wwltv.com/article/news/investigations/david-hammer/5-la-refineries-3-near-new-orleans-exceed-benzene-threshold/289-d7143e2a-b80f-4d9b-b5a0-f05b99609f40>

Five of the 13 U.S. refineries emitting too much of a cancer-causing chemical into the air are located in south Louisiana and three of them are in the New Orleans area, according to the latest federal air monitoring data reported by a national environmental watchdog group this week.

### **7 Could industrial waste threaten Houma-Thibodaux's drinking water? Here's what's being proposed, Houma Today, 5/3/21**

<https://www.houmatoday.com/story/news/2021/05/03/could-industrial-waste-threaten-houma-thibodauxs-drinking-water-heres-whats-being-proposed/4872850001/>

A Louisiana fertilizer plant says it can treat contaminated and highly acidic wastewater to drinking-water standards and wants a state permit to discharge it into the Mississippi River — the drinking water source for Houma-Thibodaux, New Orleans and other downriver communities. Since the 1960s, fertilizer manufacturer PCS Nitrogen and its predecessors have piled up a 180-foot-tall mound of a chalky white chemical waste byproduct known as phosphogypsum on a remote highway corner in Ascension and Iberville parishes.

### **8 President Biden to visit New Orleans, Lake Charles on Thursday; will promote infrastructure plan, Times Picayune, 5/1/21**

[https://www.nola.com/news/environment/article\\_2f24e44e-aa91-11eb-aaab-032b39b60ec7.html](https://www.nola.com/news/environment/article_2f24e44e-aa91-11eb-aaab-032b39b60ec7.html)

President Joe Biden is coming to New Orleans and Lake Charles on Thursday to promote his plan to rebuild the nation's bridges, highways, ports and other infrastructure projects, the White House announced Saturday. Through the \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan now before Congress, Biden is seeking to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels that drive climate change.

### **9 Ozone Action Day declared for San Antonio on Monday, KENS 5, 5/2/21**

<https://www.kens5.com/article/weather/severe-weather/ozone-action-day-declared-for-san-antonio-on-monday/273-7565fc22-1230-4eb0-a0ff-95c3422c3397>

An Ozone Action Day has been declared for the San Antonio area on Monday, May 3. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality announced that atmospheric conditions will be favorable for producing high levels of ozone pollution, making Monday the second Air Quality Alert Day of 2021.

## **NEW MEXICO**

### **10 LANL returns to Santa Fe just as pit production is approved, Albuquerque Journal, 5/2/21**

<https://www.abqjournal.com/2385840/lanl-returns-to-santa-fe-just-as-pit-production-is-approved-ex-others-warn-what-a-big-deal-this-really-is.html>

"This will be an all-out invasion of nuclear weapons waste being dumped in your state for many decades to come," it says, ending with the unsanitary line, "We are not the nation's nuclear toilet." Cindy Weehler, who paid for the radio ads with help from some like-minded people, said she wanted to let people know about the danger of harboring nuclear waste in New Mexico and risks associated with transporting it.